



## MEETING MINUTES

### Full Board Meeting

May 12, 2010

Frank Rogers Auditorium  
755 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV

Members Present: David Freeman, Bob Gatliff, Dave Hermann, Donna Hruska, Robert Johnson, John McGrail, Gregory Minden, Michael Moore, Harry Mortenson, Ted Oom, Jackson Ramsey, Michael Voegele, James Weeks, Walt Wegst

Members Absent: Kathy Bienenstein, Patricia Fleming, Vernell McNeal, Diane Niezgodski, Ted Schweitzer, Herb Spiegel, Hal Sullivan

Liaisons Present: Bob Gamble (Nye County), Phil Klevatorick (Clark County), Tim Murphy (NDEP), Scott Wade (DOE)

Liaisons Absent: Genne Nelson (NPS Liaison)

U.S. Dept. of Energy: Catherine Alexander Brennan, Frank DiSanza, Ken Small, Kelly Snyder (DDFO)

Technical Support Staff: Dr. Helen Neill (UNLV)

National Nuclear Security Administration: Darwin Morgan

Public Present: Chris Andres (NDEP), Marietta Nelson (Las Vegas)

Facilitator: Denise Rupp, Navarro Research & Engineering, Inc.

Walt Wegst, Chair, welcomed participants and guests to the meeting. After review and with no changes to the agenda, Michael Moore, member, moved to approve the agenda. John McGrail, member, seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Kelly Snyder introduced Catherine Alexander Brennan the Designated Federal Officer responsible for the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board.

Ms. Snyder informed the Board that two members, Ted Schweitzer and Herb Spiegel, have completed their membership terms. Mr. Schweitzer and Mr. Spiegel will be invited to continue their participation in the CAB as members of the public.

Ms. Snyder went on to report nine new members had received their appointment letters from Assistant Secretary Triay on April 21, 2010. These members include Patricia Fleming, David Freeman, Donna Hruska, Michael Long, Gregory Minden, Michael Moore, Harry Mortenson, Diane Niezgodski, and Michael Voegele. Member Long is out of the country and will not begin serving on the Board until November 2010.

**Current Non-Environmental Management Activity at the Nevada Test Site (NTS)** (*Darwin Morgan, National Nuclear Security Administration*)

- Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1996 prohibits nuclear weapons tests
- Stockpile Stewardship Program established to test weapons material reliability with non-nuclear experiments
- NTS involved in Stockpile Stewardship and Homeland Security and Defense activities
- U1a underground lab for subcritical experiments
- Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research (JASPER) studies special nuclear materials under high pressure
- Device Assembly Facility supports JASPER target assembly as well as criticality experiments
- Big Explosive Experimental Facility tests non-nuclear high explosives
- Nonproliferation Test and Evaluation Complex tests sensors using a variety of release methods
- Homeland Security and Defense utilizes NTS ability to simulate realistic scenarios in radiation and chemical environment to train responders in to terrorist radiological/nuclear material
- Radiological/Nuclear Countermeasures Test and Evaluation Complex tests radiation detectors/sensors
- Department of Defense in coordination with Nellis Air Force Base tests advanced weapons, performs special forces training, and develops and tests sensors
- NTS Remote Sensing Laboratory provides technologies, equipment and national response teams in response to improvised nuclear devices and radiation dispersal devices
- Ongoing stewardship of the NTS
- Mission is to provide world-class facilities, a remote and security location, and the expertise to meet the national security needs of America

**Public Comment** – none

**New Mixed Waste Storage Unit (MWSU) Permit** (*Ken Small, DOE*)

- DOE submitting application to State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) for permit to store mixed low-level waste (MLLW) at the NTS prior to permanent disposal
- MLLW contains both low-level radioactive waste and a hazardous component
- Storage unit is needed to bridge gap between closure of current disposal cell (Pit 3) scheduled for November 30, 2010 and completion of the new disposal cell anticipated in March 2011
- MLLW is generated by environmental cleanup activities through the DOE complex
- MWSU will consist of five locations in the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex NDEP permitting decision expected by December 2010
- Anticipate Resource Conservation Recovery Act permit valid for five years with NDEP determining storage volume limits
- NDEP will conduct annual inspections and has authority to revoke permit for non-compliance
- DOE encourages CAB to provide recommendation regarding their position during NDEP's 45-day public comment period (~Fall 2010)

**Public Comment** – none

**Committee Updates**

**Budget Committee** (*Jim Weeks, Chair*)

Due to the lack of a quorum at the March 10, 2010 Full Board meeting, there was no vote on the CAB's recommendation letter regarding Environmental Management budget prioritization for FY 2012. Chair Wegst advised the Board he had approved submittal of the draft recommendation to DOE, as it was due before the Board met again for a full vote. It was sent with the understanding it had not been voted on by the Full Board, but approval was anticipated.

Member Weeks provided a brief explanation of the CAB's budget prioritization process for new members. Although the new member had not participated in the development of this recommendation, there was a quorum of existing members in attendance. After discussion, Member Johnson moved to accept the FY 2012 Budget Prioritization recommendation letter with a May 12 date and the inclusion of the new members on the letterhead. Member McGrail seconded the motion. The motion was passed with twelve members voted in favor and two members, Harry Mortenson and Michael Voegelé, abstaining.

**Membership Committee** (*Kelly Snyder, DDFO*)

Ms. Snyder provided background information on the CAB's request to establish a student liaison position and reported on the status. In April, a proposal was both emailed and sent via regular mail to the principal of Pahrump Valley High School. This was followed up with a phone message. Not having received a response, Member Bienenstein is also attempting to make contact.

Chairman Wegst reported on his discussion with the Oak Ridge Board regarding their student liaison:

- Participating as a student liaison is a resume builder for the students
- Juniors are recruited to serve during their senior year (a one-year term)
- Their duties include participation on committees and introduction of the public during the public comment period
- Transportation is not an issue as the involved high schools are in the city of Oak Ridge, as is the DOE site

**Soils Committee** (*John McGrail, Chair*)

The Soils Committee is still awaiting information from DOE EM Soils sub-project regarding CAU 372, Area 20 Cabriole/Palanquin Unit Craters (Work Plan item #10). Late snows at the site have delayed completion of the fieldwork. Member McGrail advised the Board if the committee could receive a briefing in the next six weeks a recommendation regarding closure scenarios could be made by the July 2010 Work Plan item completion date. If information is delayed, a request will be made at the July 14 Board meeting to extend the completion date for this item on the Work Plan.

**Transportation/Waste Committee** (*Robert Johnson, Chair*)

After the MWSU presentation, Member Johnson asked that a task be added to the FY2010 Work Plan to make a recommendation to DOE EM regarding the Board position on the MWSU permit application to NDEP. Member McGrail so moved. The motion was seconded by Member Moore and passed unanimously.

The committee will consider the feasibility of completing Work Plan Item #8 regarding waste volumes and transportation by the end of the fiscal year.

**UGTA Committee** (*Jim Weeks, Member*)

The committee met April 20 to further review the differences between the original and revised Underground Test Area strategy. Those in attendance agreed the revisions provided significant improvement. Committee comments regarding suggestions for enhancement, questions and/or support of the document have been requested by May 21 and will be compiled for discussion and development of a recommendation at the June 15 committee meeting.

**Work Plan Review** (*Walt Wegst, Chair*)

- Item 2 in process
- Item 4 to be closed, recommendation to be submitted 5-13-10
- Item 5 in process
- Item 9 to remain on work plan for further consideration
- Item 10 awaiting DOE data
- Item 11 awaiting DOE completion reports
- Item 19 awaiting response from Pahrump Valley High School

### **EM Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Update** *(Walt Wegst, Chair)*

Summary of April 27-29 EM SSAB Chairs Conference in Oak Ridge, Tennessee:

- Oak Ridge Site tour
- EM Headquarters updates including EM Program, budget, waste disposal, long-term stewardship, and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- NTS CAB reported top three issues (closure/opening of mixed low-level waste cells, revised UGTA strategy, and membership appointment process timing), accomplishment (positive results of Full Board work plan transition), and ongoing activity( outreach efforts towards increasing CAB awareness)
- Chairs draft work product (recommendation) regarding baseline funding
- Next Chairs conference call will be May 19, 2010 with Vice-Chair Sullivan participating
- Next EM SSAB Chairs Conference September 13-16, 2010 in Santa Fe, New Mexico

### **DOE Update** *(Kelly Snyder, DDFO)*

- Copies of the previously distributed EM Monthly Reports for March and April 2010 were provided; since these are sent electronically and are available on the CAB website, hard copies will no longer be included in the Full Board meeting packet
- Groundwater Open House
  - Held in Beatty April 21, 2010
  - 24 members of the public in attendance
  - Positive response
  - Member Bienenstein staffed the new CAB display and answered questions about the CAB

### **Other CAB Business** *(Walt Wegst, Chair)*

Attendance at the March 10 Full Board meeting did not constitute a quorum. As a result, there could not be a vote on the FY2012 Budget Prioritization recommendation that was due in May 4. Had all members responded it would have been evident there would be no quorum and an alternative meeting date could have been arranged. Chair Wegst stressed the importance of responding to email requests from the CAB Office for confirmation of attendance.

The Member Orientation is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Enterprise Library at 25 E. Shelbourne Avenue in Las Vegas and will be followed by a Dutch-treat dinner at a nearby restaurant. All Board members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

A CAB tour of the NTS has been scheduled for June 17. Exact time and details will be sent to the Board in early June. All Board members are encouraged to participate. Priority will be given to CAB members with any remaining space available for spouses/friends.

The CAB will be hosting the Spring 2011 EM SSAB Chairs meeting April 12-14, 2011. Chair Wegst asked members attending the upcoming NTS tour consider their favorite or most interesting portions of the tour for incorporation in the April 2011 Chairs tour.

The next Full Board meeting is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. July 14, 2010 at the Atomic Testing Museum, 755 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV. Frank DiSanza, DOE, will give a presentation on the status of the permit for the new mixed-waste disposal cell.

### **State of Nevada Notifications** *(Kelly Snyder, DDFO)*

Public Notification of Corrective Actions for March and April 2010 were provided.

Ted Oom moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Weeks seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.